



STATE OF MICHIGAN

**Family  
Independence  
Agency**

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DOUGLAS E. HOWARD, Director

# News Release

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## FIA Director Honors Montmorency County Woman

MONTMORENCY—The director of the Michigan Family Independence Agency, Douglas E. Howard presented the agency's statewide Achiever of the Month award to Kathryn LeDuc of Atlanta during a ceremony held at the Garland Resort in Lewiston.

The Achiever of the Month award was established in October 1993 to recognize persons making outstanding progress toward self-sufficiency under Michigan's comprehensive welfare reform initiative *To Strengthen Michigan Families*.

Ms. LeDuc and her two children moved from St. Clair County to Montmorency County in August 2001 in search of opportunities to make a better life. At that time, she was receiving public assistance and her Family Independence Program case transferred to the Montmorency County FIA. Through their office she received Family Independence Program benefits, Medicaid and Food Assistance Program benefits (formerly food stamps), three critical programs that are essential to helping families when their own resources have been temporarily exhausted.

Despite a history of being on and off assistance for several years, Kathryn was determined to do whatever she could do to provide a better life for her family.

(more)



JOHN ENGLER, Governor

In September 2001, Kathryn was referred to the Work First program. She attended personal enrichment and pride classes sponsored by the Michigan Works! Agency, Northeast Michigan Consortium, for one week. The following Monday, with the assistance of her sister, she got a job as a production worker at Wayne Wire Air Bag in Hillman. She still works there today.

To support her work efforts, Northeast Michigan Consortium provided mileage reimbursement and funds to purchase work clothing and work boots. Kathryn's mother, who was also very supportive, assisted her with day care.

In November 2001, Kathryn's cash assistance case closed due to earnings. She continues to receive transitional Medicaid, child day care and Food Assistance Program benefits to help meet her family's needs.

Kathryn was selected to receive the January 2002 Achiever of the Month award because of her positive attitude, commitment to improve conditions for her family, and determined efforts to achieve independence from the welfare system.

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